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Nov. 4. Found *Houstonia cærulea* in bloom. *Potentilla Candensis* and *Solidago latifolia* also in bloom.

Nov. 12. *Ranunculus acris* in bloom, and *Aster sagittifolius*.

Nov. 17. *Aster oblongifolius* still in bloom. This seemed remarkable as it had been quite cold, and the mercury down to 20°.

Sida spinosa, L. is found here. Is it common for that to grow wild so far to the North?
N. COLEMAN.

IOWA PLANTS.—THE BOTANICAL GAZETTE for January has an article on recently discovered plants of Iowa, about which I wish to say a few words. There must have been some oversight in the matter or several of them would have been added to the State catalogue some time since. The *Trifolium reflexum* was found by myself in 1868, in Troy township, Monroe county. I found *Tradescantia rosea* and *T. Virginica*, as also *T. pilosa* in 1867, all three of which I transplanted into my garden, where they grew finely. *Orybaphus angustifolius* was found the same year, and some specimens presented the remarkable feature of having the branches opposite. I do not now remember whether *Rosa lucida* was first seen in 1868 or 1869, or *Eriothera pumila*, but I found them both. I spent my summer vacation of 1873 in Iowa, and while there sent nearly three hundred names of species and varieties, not then catalogued, to the State Botanist, many of them seen for the first time in Iowa, that summer. I have not the list of names at hand, but think I sent those of *Sonchus oleraceus* and *Lespedeza violacea*. Among those seen for the first time in Iowa in 1873 were *Cassia Marylandica* and *Solanum Carolinense* and *S. Virginianum*.
N. COLEMAN.

THE SHIPPING OF LIVING PLANTS.—It is probably known to many that on the 20th of October last I sent to the Botanic Garden, at Sidney, New South Wales, by request of the Australian Commission at the Centennial Exposition, a suite of New Jersey aquatic plants, in which were *Nelumbium luteum*, *Nymphaea odorata*, *Nuphar advena*, *Sarracenia purpurea*, *Pontederia cordata*, and *Vaccinium macrocarpon*. Where possible, the roots and seeds both were sent. They were packed in wet sphagnum, and sent in a tight wine cask. To make matters sure, the lot was sent overland to San Francisco. The venture has been heard from. The seeds all arrived right, and some of them had sprouted. The rhizomes of the *Nymphaea* suffered most, having badly softened on the way; so that it is quite doubtful whether these can be made to live. I hope to try another venture this year, adopting a different method in the packing. As the shipping of living plants to a great distance is of practical importance, the method and result shall be given to the BOTANICAL GAZETTE.—S. LOCKWOOD. *Freehold, N. J. March 24.*

We are pleased to acknowledge the receipt of eight botanical pamphlets from M. Alph. DeCandolle. They are "Monstruosites Vegetales," 1841, with seven plates, "Lois de la Nomenclature Botanique," 1867, A Reply to Various Questions and Criticisms made upon the former, 1869, "Experiences sur des Graines de Diverses Espèces plongées dans de l'eau de mer," by M. Gustave Thuret, 1873, "Existe-t-il dans la végétation actuelle des Caractères Généraux et Distinctifs que permettraient de la reconnaître en tous pays si elle devenait fossile?," 1875, "L'Age d'un Arbre a-t-il une influence sur l'époque moyenne de sa feuillaison?," 1876, "Sur la désignation de la direction des spires dans les plantes," 1876, "Observations sur l'Enroulement des Vrilles," by M. Casimir De Candolle, January 1877. The last pamphlet is the only one that requires special mention at this date. We have now before us the works of three generations of De Candolles, giving us a notable example of inherited tastes. In this article on the coiling of tendrils, M. C. De Candolle says that his researches were suggested by Darwin's work on the "Movements and Habits of Climbing Plants." The experiments are conducted for the most part with the tendrils of the Bryony, which do not roll themselves in one direction, but from a set of helices alternately right and left-handed. It

seems that all isolated tendrils, entirely free or fixed only by one of their extremities^s coil in one uniform direction through their whole length: that all those whose ends are fastened produce at least two helices of opposite kinds; that tendrils free at both ends coil most often from left to right, just as those which have not been separated from the plant; that isolated tendrils which are fastened at the summit, are as apt to coil in one direction as the other. The helices formed by the same tendril ought always to be an even number.—[Ed.]

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.—*American Journal of Science and Arts*, March. Dr. Gray has a short note on *Dextrorse and Sinistrorse*, or which is right and which is left, as applied to twining, overlapping in flower buds, and course of the spiral in phyllotaxis? Two opposite views are held, the one of which supposes the observer within the coil, the other outside. The former view was adopted by Linnæus, Muhl, Palm, A. Braun, Alph. DeCandolle, and others, the latter by Bentham, Darwin, and Dr. Gray, and it seems to us to be the much more reasonable and natural view. The *Botanical Necrology* of 1876 contains the names of Adolphe Theodore Brongniart, John Joseph Bennett, Christian Gottfried Ehrenberg, Leopold Fueckel, Edward Newman, Joseph Carson, M. D., and Wilhelm Hofmeister.

American Naturalist, March.—In an article entitled, "Hints on the Origin of the Flora and Fauna of the Florida Keys," L. F. DePourtales comes to the conclusion that the vegetation of the Florida Keys is largely West Indian. A list of Lichens found growing within twenty miles of Yale College is contributed by F. W. Hall. Some large trunks of *Kalmia latifolia* are put on record as occurring on the extreme western border of South Carolina. "One trunk, at a foot or so from the ground, measured four feet one and a quarter inches in circumference, and, rising without division, maintains a size approaching this and gradually lessening, for six or seven feet. C. S. Sargent has a note on the "Dichogamy of Agave" confirming by observation Dr. Engelmann's statement, in his monograph on Agave, that the flowers of the genus are "vespertine or nocturnal, and proteranderous."

Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club, February.—J. B. Ellis describes eleven new species of Fungi, one *Stereum*, one *Pistillaria*, one *Hysterium*, one *Dermatea*, three *Pezizas*, and four *Spharias*. Charles H. Peck describes a new fungus found at Westchester, Pa. Geo. E. Davenport notices some variations in *Lomaria* and *Polypodium*.

The Gardener's Monthly, March.—Mr. Meehan has an interesting note on the "Interpretation of Varying Forms" which also appears in the Proceedings of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences. We make the following extract: He said that "on a recent visit to the Academy, the distinguished botanist, Dr. Engelmann, had pointed out that some oaks had lobed leaves even in early infancy, while others had entire leaves; but that those which had early lobed leaves assumed more entire leaves when mature, and those which had entire leaves when young, had lobed leaves when fully grown."

Field and Forest, March.—Mr. J. W. Chickering gives a short list of some local plant catalogues.

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